



EARLY INTERVENTION SNAPSHOTS

A Bi-monthly information sheet for EI service coordinators

The purpose of this information sheet is to address general topics that may be of interest in the performance of your job as a service coordinator

Topic: You need more information about a child - should you request a supplemental evaluation or ask for a consult?

What is the difference between consult visits and supplemental evaluations? When do you use them?

What CONSULTS are:

- ❖ A process for providing **short term** (1-3 visits) involvement with the family and team for the purposes of providing expert, objective opinion when the child is already eligible for EI.
- ❖ The consultant gives the family and the IFSP team advice on ways to enhance progress in existing therapy without adding additional services by:
- ❖ Assisting the family and IFSP team with additional ideas as to how to interact with the child and family
- ❖ Providing solutions to specific problems or questions about the child's functioning and making suggestions as to how to improve functioning
- ❖ Developing strategies for working with the child and family
- ❖ Helping the family understand the issues in another domain without the initial pressure of a formal evaluation
- ❖ Teaching the family and IFSP team additional techniques and approaches.
- ❖ The consultant may also assist the family and the IFSP team by determining if there is a need for further evaluation or additional services.¹

At the end of the consultant's involvement with the family, a report must be generated summarizing their involvement and recommendations.

What CONSULTS are not:

- ❖ They are not an ongoing service – hence 1x/mo extended is not a consult - it is a service.
- ❖ They are not used to determine eligibility in ongoing cases.
- ❖ They are not to be done in isolation from the current team – the consultant needs to contact current providers (either by phone, co-treats, etc.) to obtain the most accurate information possible.

¹ MCDOH EI Consultation Policy for Service Coordinators and Providers
3 Email 4/9/09 fm Child & Family Hlth Svcs Division Mgr

❖ A SUPPLEMENTAL EVALUATION is used to:

- ❖ Obtain a diagnosis²
- ❖ Assist in determining eligibility during the initial evaluation process i.e., “If a core evaluation is completed and a concern is identified that requires an in-depth assessment by an individual with specific expertise, a supplemental evaluation may be recommended by the evaluation team and completed with the consent of the parent. Eligibility cannot be established until the full multidisciplinary evaluation is completed, including the supplemental evaluation.”²
- ❖ After the Initial IFSP – during the child’s time in Early Intervention – “Certain evaluation and assessment procedures may be performed or repeated and costs may be reimbursed as a supplemental evaluation . . . if deemed necessary and appropriate by the early intervention official, in conjunction with the required annual evaluation of the Individualized Family Service Plan, or more frequently under the following conditions:
 - An observable change in the child’s developmental status indicates the need for modification of the Individualized Family Service Plan, or a change in eligibility status; and
 - The parent, early intervention official or service coordinator, or service provider(s) requests a re-assessment at the six month review of the Individualized Family Service Plan.”²

A SUPPLEMENTAL EVALUATION is NOT:

- ❖ Necessarily needed when a decision has been reached by the IFSP team to put in a new provider of a different discipline. Discipline licensure guidelines may require a supplemental evaluation OR assessment. This has been addressed when adding in speech or a motor discipline. For example - “a PT eval does NOT need to be done for PT to begin”.³ Special Educator licensure guidelines do not require a supplemental evaluation prior to the start of services.
- ❖ A supplemental evaluation is NOT “meant to ‘qualify’ a child or family for a particular EI service but rather to inform the IFSP team so that the team can make an informed decision as to the appropriate services for a child/family”.

THE CHANGE CORNER - a quick list of recent changes:

- *New IFSP Face Sheet, IFSP Services Plan, and of Course - IFSP Outcome Sheet*
- *For ISC’s - Blood Lead Level Documentation (IFSP Process and Tasks for ISC)*
- *Insurance Declination Process (Parent Refusal to Disclose.doc and inForms - Insurance Declination)*
- *Articulation alone is no longer able to make a child INITIALLY eligible in the Early Intervention program (more to come on this!)*

Editor’s Note: Any comments, feedback, suggested topics strongly welcomed. You can reach me at CMizerny@monroecounty.gov or phone # 753-5265.

² NYS Department of Health – Early Intervention Program – Memorandum 2005-02 – Standards and Procedures for Evaluations, Evaluation Reimbursement, and Eligibility Requirements and Determinations Under the Early Intervention Program

³ Email 4/9/09 fm Child & Family Hlth Svcs Division Mgr